CONGRESSMAN TROY BALDERSON
PROUDLY SERVING OHIO'S 12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Division A – Limit Federal Spending

- Establishes statutory caps on discretionary spending for FY24 and FY25. For FY24, sets a defense limit of $886.349 billion and nondefense limit of $703.651 billion ($1.590 trillion). For FY 25, limits would be increased by 1 percent, with $895.212 billion for defense and $710.688 billion for nondefense ($1.605 trillion).

- For the first time in over a decade, the federal government's discretionary spending will be less next year than it was in the previous fiscal year.

    - The legislation reduces non-defense discretionary spending by $40 billion (or 5.4 percent)—the largest reduction ever. Non-defense, non-veterans spending levels are $42 billion lower than FY23 levels and $9 billion lower than FY22 levels.

- According to the Congressional Budget Office, the caps on discretionary funding for FY24 and FY25 alone would reduce budget deficits by $1.5 trillion over ten years.

- The bill sets spending limits for four additional years (FY26-FY29), at 1 percent annual growth:
    - FY2026: $1.621959 trillion
    - FY2027: $1.638179 trillion
    - FY2028: $1.65456 trillion
    - FY2029: $1.671106 trillion

- Requires that on or after January 1, 2024, if Congress is operating under a Continuing Resolution for any of the 12 appropriations bills, then discretionary spending levels will be capped at 99 percent of enacted levels. The same provisions apply for FY25.
    - Ensures that Congress adheres to the Appropriations process.

Division B – Save Taxpayer Dollars

- Title I: Recission of unobligated funding
    - Rescinds roughly $28 billion in funds made available in over 120 accounts by the American Rescue Plan, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Paycheck Protection Program

and Health Care Enhancement Act, and two Coronavirus Response and Relief Divisions from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

  - These recissions take back most unobligated funds from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, as well as COVID-focused funds given to the CDC, NIH, and CMS. Some funds are allowed to continue that fund COVID vaccines, testing, mitigation, and genomic sequencing and surveillance.
  - This includes rescinding $400 million from the CDC's Global Health Fund that sends taxpayer dollars to China.

- Title II: Family and Small Business Taxpayer Protection
  - Rescinds $1.4 billion in funding provided for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the Inflation Reduction Act.
    - This is the full amount of funds included in the IRS FY23 spend plan for non-taxpayer services.

  - This funding was for the agency's planned mandatory enforcement and operations spending, so this recission will slow the IRS hiring blitz and the agency's ability to target workers, farmers, and small businesses. It also weakens Biden's plan to increase audits on working class Americans.

- Title III: Statutory Administrative Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2023
  - Establishes new "Administrative PAYGO" rules related to executive branch actions that increase direct spending.

  - Before finalizing a rule that would increase direct spending by more than $1 billion over 10 years or $100 million in any single year, agencies would have to submit a plan that reduces direct spending by an equal or greater amount.

- Title IV: Termination of Suspension of Payments on Federal Student Loans
  - This section restarts student loan payments, which brings in roughly $5 billion each month.

  - Since the start of the pandemic, the temporary student loan payment pause was extended eight times.

  - This section also prohibits the Administration from ever again pausing the student loan payment due to the pandemic.

Division C – Grow the Economy

- Title I: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
  - Section 301: Recalibration of the Caseload Reduction Credit

        - Under current law, states can receive caseload reduction credits (CRCs) for decreasing the number of individuals on their TANF caseload relative to an outdated, 2005 caseload level. This section would reset the baseline year for calculation of the CRC by a decade to 2015, similar to what Congress did in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

    - Section 302: Pilot Projects for Promoting Accountability by Measuring Work Outcomes
        - This section establishes a six-year, five-state pilot program to encourage greater work and better family outcomes for TANF recipients.

    - Section 303: Elimination of Small Checks Scheme
        - In order to meet their required Work Participation Rate (WPR), some states send a small TANF check to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients who are already working. This allows the state to officially count them as part of the TANF caseload and towards their WPR. This section would discount from WPRs any family receiving less than $35 in TANF benefits.

    - Section 304: Reporting of Work Outcomes
        - This section requires HHS to collect data from states on outcome metrics for TANF recipients aligned with employment metrics in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to provide Congress with data to evaluate TANF's ability to move individuals off the sidelines into sustainable employment and self-sufficiency.

- Title II: SNAP Exemptions
    - Modifies the SNAP work requirement age to gradually increase through the age of 54 for able-bodied individuals without dependents (the current work requirements apply to individuals age 18-49). Exemptions from this requirement include homeless, veterans, and individuals aging out of foster care. Sunsets on October 1, 2030.

    - States will be able to continue exempting 12% of able-bodied individuals without dependents, but starting in 2024, they will no longer be able to carry exemptions over to the following years. **Additionally, the 12% reduces to 8% starting in 2024.**

    - Requires USDA to publish all state able-bodied waiver exemptions, increasing transparency for SNAP exemptions.

- Title III: Permitting Reform
    - BUILDER Act

    - Includes a slightly modified version of the BUILDER Act, which reforms the National Environmental Policy Act, including project threshold, interagency coordination, and review deadlines to prevent project delay, limits on what qualifies as a major federal action, and limits to prevent agencies from missing statutory deadlines.

    - This section provides the first significant reforms to NEPA since 1982.

    - Narrows agency considerations of an action's impact to "reasonably foreseeable environmental effects of the proposed agency action, any reasonably foreseeable adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented, [and] a reasonable number of alternatives to the proposed action that are technically and economically feasible."

    - The section codifies elements of President Trump's One Federal Decision Framework, by requiring the designation of a lead federal agency when two or more agencies are involved in federal reviews. This section provides that the lead agency may issue a single environmental document. An EIS must include a request for public comment and a brief statement of the purpose and need for the proposed action.

    - This section limits an Environmental Impact Statement to 150 pages, or 300 pages for an EIS of "extraordinary complexity." An Environmental Assessment (EA) would be limited to 75 pages. Lead agencies would have to prescribe procedures to allow a project sponsor to prepare an EA or EIS, subject to supervision by the lead agency.

  - Interregional Transfer Capability Determination Study
    - This section would require the North American Electric Reliability Organization to, in consultation with regional operators, to conduct a study of total transfer capability between transmission planning regions. The study shall include:
      - Current total transfer capability between each pair of neighboring transmission planning regions

      - A recommendation of prudent additions to total transfer capability that would demonstrably strengthen reliability within and among regions

            - Recommendations to meet and maintain total transfer capability

        - Within 18 months of enactment, the Electric Reliability Organization must deliver the study to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which must publish it in the federal register seeking comments and submit a report on its conclusions to Congress, including recommendations, if any, for statutory changes.

    - Permitting Streamlining for Energy Storage
        - Adds energy storage to this list of covered projects eligible for streamlining under the FAST Act.

    - Mountain Valley Pipeline
        - This section would provide that Congress ratifies and approves all authorizations, permits, and any other approvals or orders necessary for the construction and operation of the pipeline, and directs relevant agencies to maintain such authorizations.
        - This section grants the U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C. to have original jurisdiction over any claim alleging the invalidity of this section or that an action taken is beyond the scope of this statute.

        - Declares that Congress finds the timely completion of Mountain Valley Pipeline to be in the national interest, finding that the project will increase the reliability and markets of natural gas supplies in the relevant regions and facilitate the energy transition.

Division D – Increase in Debt Limit

- Suspends the debt limit through January 1, 2025, while prohibiting the Treasury from increasing the cash balance above normal operating balances or accelerating obligations in anticipation of meeting the debt limit.